

CO-OPERATIVE ADVANCE WARNING SYSTEM FOR ROAD HAZARDS

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5 The present invention generally relates to advance warning systems for road hazards and more specifically it relates to a cooperative advance warning system for vehicles that can be activated by the driver of a vehicle to warn oncoming drivers of unexpected upcoming hazards.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Motor vehicle accidents kill thousands of people in North America and world wide each year. Many of these accidents are either directly or indirectly caused by unexpected road hazards which can include anything from wildlife or livestock on the road to stalled cars, fog banks, black ice, smoke, fallen rock vehicle and other accidents, farm and various other machinery, lost loads and vehicle debris, downed trees, wash-outs, snowslides, mud slides and the like. These hazards are dangerous, and often cause accidents, precisely because they are unexpected.

20 Advance warning of such random, unexpected road hazards, sufficient to alert the driver of an oncoming vehicle and permit him or her time to slow down or stop, is all that is normally required to prevent an accident.

25 Currently, however, even where drivers negotiate such circumstances and are therefore aware of the unusual danger or condition lying ahead of the oncoming traffic, and wish to warn oncoming drivers, there is no established